

back to the people, and basically to give more freedom and liberty to Americans throughout the country wherever they may be.

But the reality is, there is about two minutes left until the end of April Fool's Day here in Washington, D.C. in the eastern time zone, which means that in 14 days, a little over 14 days now, at about this time, American taxpayers throughout the country are going to be lining up to get to their Post Office to file their tax returns in time in order to stay within the law of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code.

I hope they will be thinking about this conversation tonight, and maybe contrasting the difference between our Republican message of freedom and liberty and lower taxes and the Democrat message of more government and no tax cuts, no tax cuts.

The tax collectors for the welfare State, as you have pointed out in the quote you brought here tonight, have stated right here on this floor just a few weeks ago that the fact is that Democrats are not for tax cuts. That is the real difference between the two parties. We really are looking for ways to liberate the American people, to lower tax rates.

Here is something I want to point out. Families paid 5 percent of their income in Federal taxes in 1934. Today, the average family pays 20 percent of its annual income to the Federal Government, the highest since World War II. That is no April Fool's Day joke.

Right now the average American family pays about 40 percent of their total income in State, Federal and local taxes; 40 percent. That is no April fool's Day joke either.

Our goal and our vision in general terms and over a broader context is to lower the effective tax rate on the American family to no more than 25 percent. That is something we are not joking about either. We are quite serious about it.

We will be back at this microphone time and time again talking about this vision of freedom and liberty, lower taxes and less government. I thank the Speaker for recognizing us today, and allowing us to participate in this special order.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 8:15 p.m. on account of physical reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MASCARA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NADLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. WHITFIELD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GIBBONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WHITFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 750. An act to consolidate certain mineral interests in the National Grasslands in Billings County, North Dakota, through the exchange of Federal and private mineral interests to enhance land management capabilities and environmental and wildlife protection, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). Pursuant to the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 257, 105th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 1998, for morning hour debates.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 257, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 1998, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8341. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Specifically Approved States Authorized to Receive Mares and Stallions Imported from Regions Where CEM Exists [Docket No. 97-104-1] received March 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8342. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the medical condition of members of the Armed Forces who are de-

ployed outside the United States as part of a contingency or combat operation, pursuant to Public Law 105-85; to the Committee on National Security.

8343. A letter from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Community Development Financial Institutions Program—Core Component [No. 981-0154] received March 24, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

8344. A letter from the Deputy Director for Policy and Program, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Community Development Financial Institutions Program Technical Assistance—Technical Assistance Component [No. 982-0154] received March 24, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

8345. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Odometer Disclosure Requirements; Exemptions [Docket No. 87-09, Notice 16] (RIN: 2127-AG83) received March 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8346. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No. NHTSA-97-3191; Notice 2] (RIN: 2127-AF66) received March 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8347. A letter from the Acting Director, Minority Business Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Solicitation of Minority Business Development Center Applications for Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Raleigh/Durham, San Antonio, El Paso, Statewide New Mexico, Philadelphia, Williamsburg, Seattle, Honolulu and San Jose [Docket No. 980320072-8072-01] received March 24, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8348. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Statement of the Commission Regarding Use of Internet Web Sites to Offer Securities, Solicit Securities Transactions or Advertise Investment Services Offshore [Release Nos. 33-7516, 34-39779, 1A-1710, IC-23071] received March 24, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8349. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations [22 CFR Part 121] received March 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

8350. A letter from the Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting the 1996 annual report entitled "International Exchange and Training Activities of the United States Government"; to the Committee on International Relations.

8351. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the final version of the Department's FY 1999 Annual Performance Plan (APP), pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

8352. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule—Amendment to Clarify